

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1 – 4 and 10 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 10 are independent. Claim 7 was previously canceled and claims 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11 are currently canceled without prejudice to and/or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2003-314263 (“Hirooka”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,319,928 (“Bone”).

Claims 1 – 4 and 10 are allowed.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections in view of the foregoing amendments to the specification and the following remarks.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 – 4 and 10 are allowed.

III. Pending Claims

As stated above in section II, claims 1 – 4 and 10 are allowed. Accordingly, without waiving any argument, and to advance prosecution, claims 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11 have been canceled without prejudice to and/or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

In light of the above discussion, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4420 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Daniel G. Shanley/
Daniel G. Shanley
(Reg. No. 54,863)

KENYON & KENYON LLP
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-1256
Telephone: (202) 220-4200
Facsimile: (202) 220-4201
Customer No. 23838